AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A core for supporting a wound sheet roll on a spindle, said core comprising:

a tubular body having open ends and including an annular outer surface for receiving the sheet roll;

an annular inner surface defining a bore for receiving the spindle;

circumferentially spaced apart splines projecting radially inward from the annular inner surface and extending axially between the open ends for nesting in corresponding slots in the spindle, at least one spline having a spline stop at one end for frictionally engaging the spindle to retain the core axially; and

a set of ribs projecting radially inward from the annular inner surface near the one end and extending between the axial splines, each rib having a radially-oriented face arranged to frictionally engage an outer circumferential surface of the spindle ~~for axially limiting assembly of the core onto the spindle~~.

2. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein the spline stop is a bevel formed on the end of the spline.

3. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein each spline includes a spline stop.

4. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein an end of each rib is spaced from an adjacent spline.

5. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein the splines are generally rectangular in cross section.

6. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein the ribs are generally rectangular in cross section.

7. (original) The core of claim 1, wherein there are three splines.

8. (original) The core of claim 7, wherein the splines are spaced apart by about 120°.

9. (new) The core of claim 1, wherein the set of ribs encircles at least half of the annular inner surface.

10. (new) The core of claim 1, wherein the radially-oriented face is arranged to be mutually parallel with the outer circumferential surface of the spindle.

11. (new) The core of claim 1, wherein the spline stop is provided as a solid triangle-shaped material.

12. (new) The core of claim 1, wherein the spline stop is mounted directly to the inner annular surface.